Response to 1/31/07 Office Action Atty. Docket: S-09-5

Application No.: 10/799,491

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REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 31, 2007. Applicants amend the priority data set forth on page 1 of the specification and enclose a Supplemental Application Data Sheet herewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the amended priority data.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

Applicants also enclose a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and an Information Disclosure Statement with PTO Forms 1449, with copies of the references for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on January 5, 2007. Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statements be considered and cited in the examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants attach a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed January 5, 2007, for the Examiner's convenience.

Atty. Docket: S-09-5 Response to 1/31/07 Office Action

Application No.: 10/799,491 Page 4 of 4

## CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of the application in light of the amendment set forth above.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$790.00 for the RCE to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation. Applicants believe there are no further fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.391.3961.

> Respectfully submitted Attorney for Applicants,

Reg. No. 47,120

Date: 2/23/2007

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: ARTHROCARE CORPORATION CUSTOMER NO. 21394 512.391.3961 512.391.3901 (fax)

Enclosures:

- 1) Supplemental Application Data Sheet.
- 2) Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal with an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Forms 1449.
- 3) A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed January 5, 2007.

01-08-07

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Post No. <u>EQ751343233US</u> and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

PATENT Attorney Docket No.: S-9-5

to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patients, P.O. Box 1450,

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Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450,

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: David Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/799,491

Filed: March 12, 2004

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Confirmation No.: 8367 . .

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.

These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

01/09/2007 SSITHIB1 00000076 500359 10799491 01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

1 of 2

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge \$180.00 for the IDS fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.391.3961.

Respectfully submitted Attorney for Applicants,

Brian E. Szymczak

Reg. No. 47,120

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: ARTHROCARE CORPORATION CUSTOMER NO. 21394 512.391.3961 512.391.3901 (fax)

PTO-1449	
Information Disclosure	Citation
in an Applicatio	n

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/799,491	David Hovda et al.	
Docket Number	Group Art Unit	Filing Date
S-9-5	3739	March 12, 2004

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE			
A.	2,056,377	10/06/39	Wappler	125	303	08/16/33			
В.	3,815,604	06/11/74	O'Malley et al.	128	305	6/19/72			
C.	3,828,780	08/13/74	Morrison, Jr. et al.	128	275	03/26/73			
D.	3,901,242	08/26/75	Storz	128	303	05/30/74			
E.	3,920,021	11/18/75	Hiltebrandt	128	303	5/15/74			
F.	3,939,839	02/24/76	Curtiss	128	303	6/26/74			
G.	3,970,088	07/20/76	Morrison	128	303	4/24/75			
H.	4,040,426	08/09/77	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	1/16/76			
l.	4,074,718	02/21/78	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	3/17/76			
J.	4,092,986	06/06/78	Schneiderman	128	303	6/14/76			
K.	4,116,198	09/26/78	Roos	128	303	5/14/76			
L.	4,181,131	01/01/80	Ogiu	128	303	2/23/78			
M.	4,184,492	01/22/80	Meinke et al.	128	303	5/30/78			
N.	4,202,337	05/13/80	Hren et al.	128	303	6/14/77			
0.	4,228,800	10/21/80	Degler, Jr. et al.	128	303	4/4/78			
P.	4,232,676	11/11/80	Herczog	128	303	11/16/78			
Q.	4,248,231	02/03/81	Herczog et al.	128	303	11/16/78			
Q.	4,326,529	04/27/82	Doss et al.	128	303	12/5/79			
S.	4,381,007	04/26/83	Doss	128	303	4/30/81			
T.	4,476,862	10/16/84	Pao	128	303	9/30/82			
U.	4,532,924	08/06/85	Auth et al.	128	303	4/30/82			
V.	4,548,207	10/22/85	Reimels	128	303	11/17/82			
W.	4,567,890	02/04/86	Ohta et al.	128	303	8/7/84			
X.	4,590,934	05/27/86	Malis et al.	128	303	5/18/83			
Y.	4,593,691	06/10/86	Lindstrom et al.	128	303	7/13/83			
Z.	4,660,571	04/28/87	Hess et al.	128	784	7/18/85			

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

TO-144	9		Application No. 10/799.491	Applicant(s)  David Hove	la ot al		
Info	rmation Disclos	ure Citation	Docket Number	Group Art Unit		Filing Date	
	in an Applic	ation	S-9-5	3739		March	12, 2004
			U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	3	•		
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBC	CLASS	FILING DA
A.	4,674,499	06/23/87	Pao	128	3	03	1/10/85
B.	4,682,596	07/28/87	Bales et al.	128	3	03	5/22/84
C.	4,706,667	11/17/87	Roos	128	3	03	7/28/86
D.	4,727,874	03/01/88	Bowers et al.	128	3	03	9/10/84
E.	4,765,331	08/23/88	Petruzzi et al.	128	3	03	2/10/87
F.	4,785,823	11/22/88	Eggers et al.	128	6	92	7/21/87
G.	4,805,616	02/21/89	Pao	128	3	03	11/20/86
H.	4,823,791	04/25/89	D'Amelio et al.	123	3	03	5/8/87
l.	4,832,048	05/23/89	Cohen	128	7	86	10/29/8
J.	4,920,978	05/01/90	Colvin	128	7-	84	8/31/88
K.	4,931,047	06/05/90	Broadwin et al.	604	2	22	9/30/87
L.	4,936,301	06/26/90	Rexroth et al.	606	4	15	6/23/87
M.	4,936,281	06/26/90	Stasz	128	6	60	4/13/89
N.	4,943,290	07/24/90	Rexroth et al.	606	4	15	4/27/89
0.	4,966,597	10/30/90	Cosman	606		50	11/4/88
P.	4,967,765	11/06/90	Turner et al.	128	7.	85	7/28/88
Q.	4,976,711	12/11/90	Parins et al.	606	4	18	4/13/89
R.	4,979,948	12/25/90	Geddes et al.	606	3	13	4/13/89
S.	4,998,933	03/12/91	Eggers et al.	606	4	l1	6/10/88
T.	5,007,908	04/16/91	Rydell	606	4	17	9/29/89
U.	5,009,656	04/23/91	Reimels	606	4	18	8/17/89
V.	5,035,696	07/30/91	Rydell	606	4	17	2/2/90
W.	5,047,026	09/10/91	Rydell	606	4	18	7/2/90
X.	5,047,027	09/10/91	Rydell	606	4	18	4/20/90
Y.	5,078,717	01/07/92	Parins et al.	606	4	8	9/10/90
Z.	5,080,660	01/14/92	Buelna	606	4	15	5/11/90
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David H er Group / 3739  CUMENTS  CLASS  606 606 606 128 606 606	March  SUBCLASS  27  47  42  48  422	FILING DAT 7/14/89 11/21/90 3/15/90
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128	422	7/3/90
606	45	1/23/89
1 000	15	10/9/90
et al. 606	38	5/5/89
al. 606	46	5/23/89
9 606	46	11/28/90
I. 606	48	2/19/91
al. 606	40	5/13/91
I. 606	48	9/23/91
al. 606	41	2/22/91
. 604	22	6/6/91
606	48	11/25/91
604	34	5/31/91
606	46	12/2/91
t al. 128	399	1/7/92
606	40	7/15/91
t al. 606	42	5/27/91
606	48	8/27/91
	15	2/10/92
al. 606	38	1/15/92
	21	10/9/91
	98	5/1/92
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TO-144	9		Application No.	Applicant(s)		
Information Disclosure Citation   10/799,491   Docket Number		10/799,491	David Hovda Group Art Unit	David Hovda et al.  Group Art Unit   Filing Date		
11110	in an Applic	tion			-	
			S-9-5	3739	March	12, 2004
			U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DAT
A.	5,290,282	03/01/94	Casscells	606	29	6/26/92
В.	5,300,069	04/05/94	Hunsberger et al.	606	37	8/12/92
C.	5,306,238	04/26/94	Fleenor	606	42	9/13/91
D.	5,312,400	05/17/94	Bales et al.	606	41	10/9/92
E.	5,314,406	05/24/94	Arias et al.	604	21	10/9/92
F.	5,324,254	06/28/94	Phillips	604	21	1/13/93
G.	5,330,470	07/19/94	Hagen	606	42	7/2/92
H.	5,334,140	08/02/94	Philips	604	35	1/12/93
l.	5,342,357	08/30/94	Nardella	606	40	11/13/92
J.	5,366,443	11/22/94	Eggers et al.	604	114	10/9/92
K.	5,370,675	12/06/94	Edwards et al.	607	101	2/2/93
L.	5,375,588	12/27/94	Yoon	128	4	8/17/92
M.	5,380,277	01/10/95	Phillips	604	33	11/2/93
N.	5,383,917	01/24/95	Desai et al.	607	702	7/5/91
0.	5,383,876	01/24/95	Nardella	606	49	3/22/94
P.	5,395,312	03/07/95	Desai	604	22	5/10/93
Q.	5,401,272	03/28/95	Perkins	606	15	2/16/94
R.	5,417,687	05/23/95	Nardella et al.	606	32	4/30/93
S.	5,419,767	05/30/95	Eggers et al.	604	114	8/24/93
T.	5,423,810	06/13/95	Goble et al.	606	40	2/25/93
U.	5,423,882	06/13/95	Jackman et al.	607	122	2/25/93
V.	5,436,566	07/25/95	Thompson et al.	324	713	6/1/93
W.	5,438,302	08/01/95	Goble	331	167	7/11/94
X.	5,441,499	08/15/95	Fritzsch	606	45	07/13/9
Y.	5,451,224	09/19/95	Goble et al.	606	48	02/25/9
Z.	5,454,809	10/03/95	Janssen	606	41	04/19/9
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	)		Application No. 10/799.491	Applicant(s)  David Hovda	a et al	
Infor	mation Disclos		Docket Number	Group Art Uni		ate
	in an Applic	ation	S-9-5	3739	March	12, 2004
			U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DAT
A.	5,496,314	3/5/96	Eggers	606	41	10/9/92
B.	5,496,317	3/5/96	Goble et al.	606	48	5/3/94
C.	5,496,312	03/05/96	Klicek	606	34	10/7/93
D.	5,514,130	05/07/96	Baker	606	41	10/11/94
E.	5,556,397	09/17/96	Long et al.	606	48	10/26/94
F.	5,569,242	10/29/96	Lax et al.	606	42	10/29/96
G.	5,571,100	11/5/96	Goble et al.	606	41	10/28/94
H.	5,584,872	12/17/96	LaFontaine et al.	607	117	3/11/94
l.	5,609,151	03/11/97	Mulier et al.	128	642	9/18/94
J.	5,633,578	5/27/97	Eggers et al.	323	301	7/15/94
K.	5,647,869	07/15/97	Goble et al.	606	37	6/28/95
L.	4,043,342	08/23/97	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	2/26/76
M.	5,662,680	09/02/97	Desai	606	210	10/28/9
N.	5,676,693	10/14/97	LaFontaine et al.	607	116	6/14/94
0.	5,681,282	10/28/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	4/11/95
P.	5,683,366	11/04/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/9
Q.	5,697,281	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	6/7/95
R.	5,697,882	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/9
S.	5,697,909	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/24/9
T.	5,697,536	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/18/9
U.	5,700,262	12/23/97	Acosta et al.	606	48	10/16/9
V.	5,725,524	03/10/98	Mulier et al.	606	41	1/3/96
W.	5,766,153	06/16/98	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/05/9
X.	5,807,395	09/15/98	Mulier et al.	606	41	04/22/9
Y.	5,810,764	09/22/98	Eggers et al.	604	23	07/18/9
Z.	5,810,809	09/22/98	Rydell	606	49	01/13/9
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PTO-144	9		Application No. 10/799,491	Applicant(s)  David Hovda	et al.	
Info	rmation Disclos		Docket Number	Group Art Unit	Filing Da	te
in an Application		S-9-5	3739	March	12, 2004	
			U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	3		
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A.	5,843,019	12/01/98	Eggers et al.	604	22	7/18/96
В.	5,860,975	1/19/99	Goble et al	606	45	12/15/95
C.	5,871,469	02/16/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	2/5/97
D.	5,873,855	02/23/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/96
E.	5,885,277	03/23/99	Korth	606	35	2/27/97
F.	5,888,198	03/30/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/96
G.	5,891,095	03/30/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/96
H.	5,897,553	04/27/99	Mulier	606	41	11/2/95
I.	5,902,272	05/11/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	7/16/96
J.	5,944,715	08/31/99	Goble et al.	606	41	11/25/96
K.	5,954,716	09/21/99	Sharkey et al.	606	32	2/19/98
L.	6,004,319	12/21/99	Goble et al.	606	48	8/26/96
M.	6,013,076	01/11/00	Goble et al.	606	41	10/25/96
N.	6,015,406	01/18/00	Goble et al.	606	41	8/21/96
Ο.	6,024,733	02/15/00	Eggers et al.	604	500	11/22/95
P.	6,027,501	02/22/00	Goble et al.	606	41	10/21/96
Q.	6,039,734	03/21/00	Goble et al.	606	41	7/27/98
R.	6,056,746	05/02/00	Goble et al.	606	48	3/27/98
S.	6,063,079	05/16/00	Hovda et al.	606	41	4/2/98
T.	6,066,134	05/23/00	Eggers et al.	606	32	10/23/98
U.	6,068,628	05/30/00	Fanton et al.	606	41	08/20/96
V.	6,074,386	06/13/00	Goble et al.	606	34	08/06/97
W.	6,090,106	07/18/00	Goble et al.	606	41	03/26/98
X.	6,093,186	07/25/00	Goble et al.	606	34	12/18/97
Y.	6,102,046	08/15/00	Weinstein et al.	128	898	6/2/98
Z.	6,109,268	08/29/00	Thapliyal et al.	128	898	12/15/97
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED		

TO-144			Application No. 10/799,491	Applicant(s)  David Hovd			
Info	rmation Disclos in an Applic		Docket Number	Group Art Un	it Filing Da	ite	
	птап Аррис	auon	S-9-5	3739	March	12, 2004	
			U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DAT	
A.	6,117,109	09/12/00	Eggers et al.	604	114	9/28/98	
B.	6,126,682	10/03/00	Sharkey et al.	607	96	9/15/98	
C.	6,142,992	11/07/00	Cheng et al.	606	34	4/10/98	
D.	6,149,620	11/21/00	Baker et al.	604	22	2/12/99	
E.	6,159,194	12/12/00	Eggers et al.	604	500	10/2/97	
F.	6,159,208	12/12/00	Hovda et al.	606	41	3/15/99	
G.	6,168,593	01/02/01	Sharkey et al.	606	34	2/12/98	
H.	6,179,836	01/30/01	Eggers et al.	606	45	10/28/98	
I.	6,179,824	01/30/01	Eggers et al.	604	500	06/13/9	
J.	6,183,469	02/06/01	Thapliyal et al.	606	41	01/02/9	
K.	6,190,381	02/20/01	Olsen et al.	606	32	01/21/9	
L.	6,203,542	03/20/01	Ellsberry et al.	606	41	04/21/9	
M.	6,210,402	04/03/01	Olsen et al.	606	32	11/25/9	
N.	6,224,592	05/01/01	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/27/9	
0.	6,228,081	05/08/01	Goble	606	34	06/30/9	
P.	6,235,020	05/22/01	Cheng et al.	606	34	04/10/9	
Q.	6,238,391	05/29/01	Olsen et al.	606	41	06/11/9	
R.	6,254,600	07/03/01	Willink et al.	606	41	06/11/9	
S.	6,261,286	07/17/01	Goble et al.	606	34	10/16/9	
T.	6,264,652	07/24/01	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/9	
U.	6,277,112	08/21/01	Underwood et al.	606	32	2/20/98	
V.	6,293,942	09/25/01	Goble et al.	606	38	05/02/9	
W.	6,296,636	10/02/01	Cheng et al.	606	32	07/21/9	
X.	6,296,638	10/02/01	Davison et al.	606	41	11/20/9	
Y.	6,306,134	10/23/01	Goble et al.	606	42	10/16/9	
Z.	6,312,408	11/06/01	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/08	
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PTO-1449			Application No. 10/799,491	Applicant(s)  David Hovda		
Info	rmation Disclos		Docket Number	Group Art Unit	Filing Da	te
	in an Application		S-9-5	3739	March	12, 2004
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C.	6,363,937	04/02/02	Hovda et al.	128	898	05/06/98
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H.	6,432,103	08/13/02	Ellsberry et al.	606	41	06/26/00
I.	6,468,274	10/22/02	Alleyne et al.	606	32	10/11/00
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K.	6,482,201	11/19/02	Olsen et al.	606	41	7/27/00
L.	6,517,498	02/11/03	Burbank et al.	600	564	7/20/00
M.	6,530,922	03/11/03	Cosman	606	34	1/27/00
N.	6,589,237	07/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	41	1/19/01
0.	6,602,248	08/05/03	Sharps et al.	606	32	9/28/00
P.	6,620,156	09/16/03	Garito et al.	606	50	9/20/02
Q.	6,632,193	10/14/03	Davison et al.	604	22	1/5/00
R.	6,632,220	10/14/03	Eggers et al.	606	41	11/12/99
S.	6,749,608	6/15/04	Garito et al.	606	45	8/5/02
T.	6,780,180	08/24/04	Goble et al.	606	41	3/8/00
U.	6,780,178	08/24/04	Palanker et al.	600	41	5/3/02
V.	6,802,842	10/12/04	Ellman et al.	606	45	1/2/03
W.	6,920,883	07/26/05	Bessette et al.	128	898	11/08/02
X.	6,929,640	08/16/05	Underwood et al.	606	32	02/24/00
Y.	6,949,096	09/27/05	Davison et al.	606	41	01/21/03
Z.	6,960,204	11/01/05	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/16/03

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C.	7,004,941	02/28/06	Tvinnereim et al.	606	41	11/07/02
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E.	7,090,672	08/15/06	Underwood et al.	606	41	07/02/03
F.	7,094,215	08/22/06	Davison et al.	604	22	03/28/03
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I.	4896671	1/30/90	Cunningham	128	642	8/1/88
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K.	4976709	12/11/90	Sand	606	999.999	6/30/89
L.	5137530	8/11/92	Sand	606	005	6/29/90
M.	5201729	4/13/93	Hertzmann	606	002	11/30/90
N.	5230334	7/27/93	Klopotek	128	999.999	1/22/92
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C.	4582057	4/15/86	Auth et al.	606	31	11/21/83	
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J.	6096036	8/1/00	Bowe et al.	606	41	5/5/98	
K.	6122549	9/19/00	Sharkey et al.	607	99	6/24/97	
L.	6258086	7/10/01	Ashley et al.	606	41	3/19/99	
M.	6319250	11/20/01	Falwell et al.	606	41	11/23/98	
N.	6500173	12/31/02	Underwood et al.	606	32	5/18/01	
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P.	2002/0049438	4/25/02	Sharkey et al.	606	041	6/29/01	
Q.	6095149	8/1/00	Sharkey et al.	128	898	6/24/97	
R.	7014633	3/21/06	Cragg	604	500	5/3/01	
S.	6214001	4/10/01	Casscells et al.	606	41	4/24/98	
T.							
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C.	98/11944	9/17/97	WO	A61N	1/06	х			
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M.	2 327 350	01/27/99	GB	A61B	17/39	Х			
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C.	93/20747	10/28/93	WO	A61B	5/00		х		
D.	90/03152	04/05/90	WO	A61B	17/39		х		
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